

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 DHA-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 SAJ-01

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R 180900Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 024

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TO

SUBJ: EYADEMA SPEECH ON TOGO RELATIONS WITH THE WEST

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S SPEECH AT OPENING OF CONFERENCE OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE UNIVERSITIES DEC. 16 TURNED OUT TO BE MAJOR STATEMENT OF THE GOV'S VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPED WORLD. ALTHOUGH THE SPEECH WAS DEVOID OF HOSTILITY OR DOGMATISM, EYADEMA CONCLUDES THAT WEST'S HISTORIC AND PRESENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH TOGO ARE UNSATISFACTORY

AND MOTIVATED BY "EGOTISM". TOGO DESIRES DIALOGUE WITH THE WEST, BUT MUST EXAMINE ALL WESTERN ACTIONS WITH CAUTION. END SUMMARY.

GWM OCCASION FOR EYADEMA'S ADDRESS WAS FIFTH TRIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES PARTIALLY OR ENTIRELY OF THE FRENCH

H
LANGUAGE. THIS NON-GOVERNMENTAL REUNION ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES O
F
OF OVER 100 FRENCH-LANGUAGE UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL RECTORS.
ALSO PRESENT ARE MINISTERIAL OR SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES
TF EUROPEAN, BLACK, AND NORTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. THE AUDIENCE WAS
APPROPRIATE FOR EYADEMA'S SURPRISINGLY THOUGHTFUL SPEECH. THE EM-
BASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT WHO IN THE GOT CONTRIBUTED TO ITS
PREPARATION.

3. SPEECH COVERED SEVERAL POINTS:

A. ANGOLA: EYADEMA DEPLORED LACK OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN ANGOLANS, BUT
SAID IT WAS ONE MORE CASE OF GREAT POWERS SEEKING TO DIVIDE AFRICANS.
HE NOTED WHEN ANGOLANS FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIBERATION MAJOR POWERS
GAVE NO AID AND ACTUALLY SUPPORTED COLONIZERS, BUT NOW FURNISH ARMS
TO STIMULATE A CIVIL WAR. HE CONCLUDED WITH WISH ANGOLANS COULD RE-
SOLVE THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES BY DIALOGUE FREE FROM OUTSIDE INTERFER-
ENCE.

COMMENT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN TAKING CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM
FROM MFA OFFICIALS FOR HIS COUNTRY'S RECOGNIZING AND ARMING MPLA.
EYADEMA'S FORMULATION IS CLEAR WARNING THAT U.S. MAY GET SAME TREAT-
MENT.

B. SOUTH AFRICA: DIALOGUE POSSIBLE BETWEEN BLACK AFRICAN STATES
AND RACIST SOUTH AFRICA BUT ON CONDITION SOUTH AFRICANS ALSO BE-
LIEVE IN DIALOGUE, AND START IT FIRST WITH SA'S BLACK MAJORITY.
DIALOGUE IS GOOD PRINCIPLE, BUT MUST NOT OPERATE TO DETRIMENT OF AF-
RICAN MAJORITY, OR AID DOMINATION OF WHITES OVER BLACKS.

COMMENT: A POLITE SLAP AT HOUPHOUET.

C. MIDDLE EAST: DIALOGUE IS ANSWER, CONDITION EVERYONE RESPECTS
UN RESOLUTIONS.

COMMENT: PROBABLE INTERPRETATION: TOGO WILL STAND WITH ARABS
UNTIL ISRAEL COMPLIES WITH RES. 242.

D. NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES: MAJOR THRUST OF SPEECH CONCERNED WITH NEED
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FOR "RE-THINKING" STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY. TOGO BELIEVES
DIALOGUE POSSIBLE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
HOWEVER, EFFORTS TOWARD COOPERATION AND UNIVERSAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE
WW II HAVE BEEN CONFUSED, AND "EGOTISM" OF SOME IS STILL AN OBSTA-
CLE TO UNIVERSAL DESIRE FOR HUMAN HAPPINESS. THE "SOCIETY OF CON-
SUMPTION" HAS LED TO RICH GETTING RICHER AND POORER, SO THAT
OCCASIONS OF CONFRONTATION CANNOT BE AVOIDED. AS SYMPTOM OF INADE-
QUACY OF WORLD ORDER, EYADEMA POINTS OUT PRESENT GENERALIZED ECONO-

MIC RECESSION WHICH STANDS IN CONTRADICTION TO HUMAN NEEDS AND MANKIND'S TECHNICAL ABILITY TO MEET THOSE NEEDS. STRIKING IDEALISTIC NOTE, EYADEMA ASSERTS THAT IF NATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WERE CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY, THERE WOULD BE NO FRUSTRATIONS, SCANDALOUS ENRICHMENTS, OR DOMINANT AND DOMINATED. THAT WOULD BE REAL DEVELOPMENT.

COMMENT: AN UNDOGMATIC STATEMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD VIEWPOINT.

E. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: COOPERATION HAS BEEN THOUGHT OF AS AID OR ASSISTANCE AND A ONE WAY STREET. BUT IS NOT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, DEFINED AS THE NET TRANSFER OF CAPITAL, GOING FROM THE POOR TO THE RICH COUNTRIES? WHAT DOES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEAN WHEN THERE ARE MORE TOGOLESE DOCTORS PRACTICING IN EUROPE THAN EUROPEAN DOCTORS PRACTICING IN TOGO? ALSO STRANGE THAT CERTAIN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAVE ENORMOUS FINANCIAL MEANS THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH, WHILE OTHERS HAVE THEIR DEVELOPMENT RETARDED FOR LACK OF FUNDS.

COMMENT: TAKE THAT, OPEC*

F. NEW WORLD ORDER: EYADEMA CALLED ON ASSEMBLED THINKERS AND RESEARCHERS TO FORMULATE A BETTER THEORY OF HUMAN RELATIONS WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER FOR EVERYBODY'S WELL-BEING, THE WORLD'S ENORMOUS FINANCIAL RESOURCES (NOW OFTEN USED FOR SPECULATION), UNEXPLOITED LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, VAST POOLS OF UNDER-UTILIZED LABOR, AND AVAILABILITY OF CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF BRAIN POWER.

G. AUTHENTICITY: PEOPLE WHO USE THE SAME LANGUAGES HAVE ACCESS TO A CULTURE WHICH CONTAINS COMMON ELEMENTS, BUT IT IS NOT A COMMON CULTURE. WE WANT TO BORROW FROM OTHER CIVILIZATIONS, BUT NOT LOSE OUR AFRICAN ROOTS. A FUNDAMENTAL GIVEN OF THE WORLD TODAY IS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLURALITY OF CULTURES.

COMMENT: THE DAYS OF AFRICANS BEING TAUGHT "OUR ANCESTORS THE LAULS" ARE OVER.

4. GENERAL COMMENT: THE GOT CONSIDERS THIS A MAJOR SPEECH DEFINING THE BROAD PRINCIPLES OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. THE SPEECH IS FREE OF IDEOLOGICAL SLOGANS OR OVERT HOSTILITY. NEVERTHELESS, THE POSITION SET FORTH CONTAINS LITTLE CONSOLATION FOR WESTERN POLICY-MAKERS. EYADEMA ARGUES THAT PRESENT RELATIONS ARE BASED ON "EGOTISM" AND SERVE THE THIRD WORLD POORLY. TOGO IS OBLIGED TO VIEW WITH SUSPICION ALL ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. YOUNG

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